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June 3, 2026

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I am writing on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to urge you to pause consideration of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 and any similar legislation that would confer additional protections, authorities, benefits, or legal certainty upon college athletic institutions while their leadership remains silent in the face of ongoing attacks on Black political representation.

On May 18, 2026, the Congressional Black Caucus issued a statement expressing unanimous opposition to the SCORE Act amid the continued silence of college athletics leadership regarding efforts to weaken Black political power. In the wake of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*, states across the South have moved rapidly to redraw congressional maps in ways designed to dilute Black voting strength, weaken Black representation, and undermine decades of hard-fought civil rights progress secured through the Voting Rights Act. Through all of this, many of the nation's most influential athletic institutions and conferences have remained largely silent.

For generations, Black athletes have helped build college athletics into one of the most powerful and profitable industries in American life. The success, visibility, and cultural influence of major athletic conferences and institutions are inseparable from the talent, labor, leadership, and cultural contributions of Black communities. The Congressional Black Caucus believes institutions that profit from Black talent and Black communities have a responsibility to stand with those communities when their fundamental rights are under attack. Silence in the face of injustice is not neutrality—it is complicity.

The Congressional Black Caucus has transmitted formal letters to SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey, ACC Commissioner James J. Phillips, Ph.D., and NCAA President Charlie Baker demanding immediate engagement, meaningful action, and a public response regarding the ongoing assault on Black political representation throughout the South and across the nation.

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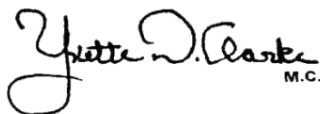
Until college athletics leadership demonstrates a willingness to both engage on these issues and take concrete action in support of the communities that have contributed so much to their success, Congress should refrain from advancing legislation that would provide additional protections, authorities, benefits, or legal certainty to these institutions.

Moreover, the concerns raised by the Congressional Black Caucus extend beyond the silence of college athletics leadership. The CBC continues to have serious substantive concerns regarding pending college athletics legislation, including questions of accountability, athlete protections, institutional authority, and the broader impact such proposals may have on student athletes and the communities they represent. Accordingly, meaningful engagement and action by college athletics leadership should be viewed as a necessary first step, not the conclusion of this discussion. Such engagement would not resolve the substantial legislative concerns raised by CBC Members but would instead create the conditions for a more productive discussion regarding those concerns. We therefore urge you to pause consideration of the Protect College Sports Act and related legislation until these issues can be fully addressed.

The issue before us is larger than college athletics. It is whether institutions that benefit from the talent, labor, and cultural contributions of Black communities can remain silent while the political power of those same communities is systematically weakened. Protecting democracy is a shared responsibility. History will remember this moment and where each of us stood when called upon.

The Congressional Black Caucus is evaluating additional steps and will continue using every legislative, political, and public platform available to defend Black voting rights, fair representation, and the integrity of American democracy. We respectfully urge you to suspend consideration of the Protect College Sports Act until college athletics leadership has demonstrated meaningful engagement and action, and until the substantial policy concerns raised by members of the Congressional Black Caucus have been adequately addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvette D. Clarke" with "M.C." written in smaller letters below the name.

U.S. Representative Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus